



City and County of the City of Chester

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN
AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
CITY AND COUNTY OF THE
CITY OF CHESTER

On the Health of the City

and the

Work of the Health Department
in 1955

BY

D. F. MORGAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Together with the Report of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
W. B. CALDER, F.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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District Additional Sanitary In- spectors	*M. G. H. Tresidder, C.R.S.I. Retired 30/4/55.
	†*R. B. Powell, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
	*L. Graham. Appointed 3/10/55.
	†*E. T. Swift. Appointed 17/10/55.
	†*F. Rummens. Appointed 24/10/55.
	†*S. Clarke, M.S.I.A. Appointed 1/11/55.
Assistant Inspector	H. J. Hewitt, M.S.I.A.
Pupil Inspector	T. A. Chetwood. Appointed 1/11/55.
Superintendent Health Visitor and Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives	§Miss B. M. Long, S.R.N., H.V.C., CERT. P.H.A.
Superintendent Home Nursing Service	§Miss M. H. Greenwood, S.R.N., Q.N.

§

Health Visitors	§Mrs. M. T. Slater, S.R.N., H.V.C. §Mrs. M. McGovern, S.R.N., H.V.C. §Miss M. W. Wright, S.R.N., H.V.C. Miss M. Hughes, S.R.N., H.V.C. §Mrs. H. Bradley, S.R.N., H.V.C. Resigned 30/9/55.
	Miss E. Walker, S.R.N., H.V.C. Appointed 1/2/55. Resigned 30/11/55.
	§Miss N. Crammond, S.R.N., H.V.C. Resigned 31/12/55.
	Mrs. J. Walker, S.R.N., H.V.C. Appointed 5/9/55.
	§Miss B. M. Blood, S.R.N., H.V.C. Miss A. Vaughan Pugh, S.R.N., H.V.C. Appointed 1/10/55.
Municipal Midwives	Miss Ashton, S.R.N., S.C.M. Mrs. Rawlins, S.C.M. Deceased 26/5/55. Miss Phillips, S.C.M. Mrs. Samuels, S.C.M. Mrs. Gaulton, S.C.M. Mrs. N. M. M. Goodson, S.C.M. Resigned 28/2/55.
	Mrs. H. McDevitt, S.C.M. Appointed 1/3/55. Resigned 3/10/55.
Chief Clerk	R. W. Hudson.
Domestic Help Organiser	Miss M. H. Ashley.
Occupation Centre Supervisor ...	Miss M. E. Chappelle.

†Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat and Food Inspection.

*Certificate, Liverpool University, Meat and Food Inspection.

§Certificate, Central Midwives Board.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ST. MARTIN'S HOUSE,

CHESTER.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Some interesting figures are given in the General Statistics for 1955 and comment is made in the Report.

The effect of the extension of the City Boundary in 1954 was felt and the deficiencies in Staff were more apparent. There was an increase in the establishment of M. & C.W. Staff, Home Nursing Service and, temporarily, in the Domestic Help Service.

We opened a new Infant Welfare Clinic in Boughton, extended our scheme of Dental Care to Priority Classes, and increased the number of Depots for the Sale of Welfare Foods.

The Domestic Help Service was reviewed, as well as the Ambulance Petrol Supplies.

The shortage of Sanitary Inspectors, Midwives and Health Visitors was very acutely felt and I know you would like me to express appreciation of the way in which the staff maintained the Services in spite of lack of personnel. So difficult did it become to obtain these keyworkers, that the Council felt it necessary to consider the provision of housing accommodation in suitable cases. Although various other Local Authorities had had such a scheme in operation for some time, this was a most welcome and badly needed addition to the Council's provisions, and its benefits were immediately obvious in that we were able to recruit our quota of Sanitary Inspectors.

It was realised, however, that housing provision does not offset a shortage—a nation-wide shortage—of trained personnel. In view, therefore, of the continuing difficulty of recruiting Sanitary Inspectors (and there appears to be no prospect of alleviation), the Council decided to make provision, as in past years, for Pupil Sanitary Inspectors.

One Assistant Medical Officer was granted leave to take his D.P.H. and to attend a Course in Mental Deficiency, and his services were replaced by a locum tenens.

It was possible to "Denotify" one "Mentally Defective" child and to refer him to the Education Department for schooling. The Sub-Committee paid a most instructive visit to the purpose-built Wigan Occupation Centre in November.

In spite of many changes and deficiencies in personnel, the Department has upheld its excellent traditions, and I would like to thank the Staff for their loyalty, efficiency and co-operation.

Finally, we are grateful for the stimulus you have given to us by your ever keen and lively interest, and by your most welcome guidance.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D. F. MORGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4659
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58500
Number of inhabited houses end of 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16610
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£513837
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2057

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—

		Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate per 1000 Population
Legitimate	...	469	422	891	
Illegitimate	...	20	23	43	
Totals	...	489	445	934	15.9

Still Births—

				Still Birth Rate per 1000 (Live and Still) Births
	11	20	31	31.5

Deaths—

				Death Rate per 1000 Population
All causes	...	345	335	680

Deaths of Infants under one year old—

				Death Rate per 1000 Live Births
All Infants	...	10	5	15
Legitimate Infants	9	5	14	Death Rate per 1000 legitimate Live Births
Illegitimate Infants	1	—	1	Death Rate per 1000 illegitimate Live Births

Deaths from Certain Causes—

				Death Rate per 1000 total (Live and Still) Births
All Maternal Causes	—	1	1	1.03
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	8	2	10
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	—	—	Death Rate per 1000 Population
Cancer	...	71	65	136
				2.3

BIRTH RATE

The Birth Rate per 1,000 population was 15.9.

Comparative figures are as follows:—

Still Births allocated to the City numbered 31, giving a rate of 31.5 per 1,000 total (live and still) births. This figure compared with 20.5 in 1954.

INFANT MORTALITY

There were 15 deaths in infants under 1 year compared with 25 in 1954. The mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 16.1 compared with 26.2 in 1954.

Comparative figures are as follows:—

The actual causes of death in these 15 cases were as follows:—

GENERAL DEATH RATE

There were 680 deaths in Chester residents giving a death rate of 11.7 per 1,000 population.

Comparative figures are as follows:—

England and Wales 11.7
 CHESTER (comparability factor (1.02) applied) 11.9

The decline in the BIRTH RATE has been going on almost continuously since the peak of 1947 (22.1), and it is now comparable to the Rate of 1940—1941 (15.7).

With an INFANT MORTALITY RATE of 16.1 per 1,000 live births, a new record is created. 1950 was next with 20.1 and then 1952 with 22.2.

The DEATH RATE, although it has risen slightly to 11.7 from last year's record lowest (10.5), is still lower than any Death Rate up to 1949.

It is to be noted that 66 per cent. of deaths occurred at age 65 and over. The deaths from Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus dropped from 4.72 per cent. of all deaths in 1954 to 3.68 per cent. in 1955.

There was one death from Acute Poliomyelitis in an adult.

451 deaths or 66 per cent. of the total deaths occurred in the age group 65 years and over.

Heart disease accounted for 205 deaths and other circulatory conditions for 34 deaths.

Bronchitis was the cause of death in 40 cases, pneumonia in 21 and other respiratory conditions in 8 cases.

Cancer accounted for 136 deaths, of which 79 were in the age group 65 years and over, and 25 were of the lung or bronchus.

There were 10 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and no deaths from other causes of tuberculosis.

There were no deaths from Diphtheria, Measles or Whooping Cough.

Cause of Death.		At all Ages	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 & Over
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M	8	—	—	—	1	3	4
	F	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, Other	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningocoecal Infections	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
8. Measles	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
10. Cancer, Stomach	M	11	—	—	—	—	1	10
	F	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
11. Cancer, Lung, Bronchus	M	20	—	—	—	1	12	7
	F	5	—	—	—	—	3	2
12. Cancer, Breast	F	14	—	—	—	1	8	5
13. Cancer, Uterus	F	6	—	—	—	2	3	1
14. Cancer, Other	M	40	—	—	—	1	11	28
	F	28	—	—	—	—	11	17
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	36	—	—	—	1	8	27
	F	60	—	—	—	—	13	46
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	M	58	—	—	—	4	21	33
	F	30	—	—	—	—	4	26
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	12	—	—	—	—	3	9
	F	10	—	—	—	—	2	8
20. Heart Disease, Other	M	35	—	—	—	2	4	29
	F	60	—	—	—	3	5	52
21. Other Circulatory Disorders ...	M	16	—	—	—	—	6	10
	F	18	—	—	—	1	2	15
22. Influenza	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	M	9	2	—	—	—	3	4
	F	12	—	—	—	1	2	9
24. Bronchitis	M	29	—	—	—	—	9	20
	F	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
25. Other Respiratory	M	4	—	—	—	—	1	3
	F	4	—	—	—	—	2	2
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	4
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	5	—	—	—	1	2	2
	F	3	—	—	—	1	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
30. Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	M	3	2	—	—	—	—	1
	F	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	32	5	—	—	2	9	16
	F	25	5	—	—	2	4	16
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	2	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	5	—	—	2	1	2	—
34. All Other Accidents	M	9	1	—	1	4	—	3
	F	8	—	—	—	2	—	6
35. Suicide	M	8	—	—	—	2	4	2
	F	5	—	—	—	2	2	3
36. Homicide and Operations of War	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—

VITAL STATISTICS OF DISTRICT FOR 1955 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Births.	Birth Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1000 Live Births.
1941	47500	748	15.7	608	12.8	62	82.1
1942	46570	759	16.3	566	12.1	52	68.5
1943	45410	770	16.9	576	12.6	41	53.2
1944	43880	825	18.8	579	13.2	56	67.8
1945	44130	807	18.1	604	13.5	64	79.3
1946	46460	917	19.7	598	12.8	54	58.8
1947	47190	1046	22.1	661	14.0	64	81.2
1948	47190	863	18.2	575	12.2	32	37.1
1949	47470	886	18.6	578	12.1	29	32.7
1950	48680	795	16.4	564	11.5	16	20.1
1951	47600	780	16.4	646	13.5	33	42.3
1952	47900	854	17.8	538	11.2	19	22.2
1953	48200	831	17.2	521	10.8	27	32.4
1954	58100	954	16.4	614	10.5	25	26.2
1955	58500	934	15.9	680	11.7	15	16.1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

772 cases of measles and 113 of whooping cough were notified. The figures for 1954 were 306 and 102 respectively. Scarlet Fever cases numbered 14 compared with 24 in 1954.

Diphtheria—again NO cases were notified. The last case in Chester occurred in 1951 in Hospital.

Measles rose rapidly from 306 last year to 772 and most cases occurred between 3 and 10 years, at which ages children are most likely to come into contact with others of similar ages.

Food poisoning notifications totalled 5, details of which are shown under the relevant heading.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1955

FOOD POISONING.

Special mention is made of this disease because of its ever present threat (especially in a centre such as Chester), because of its "preventability", and because notifications of cases must be immediate if effective action is to be taken.

No outbreaks occurred during the year; all the cases notified were isolated ones. Where patients had eaten suspected food outside the City area, information was passed to the Medical Officer of Health concerned. Similarly when patients notified in other areas had taken food in Chester, a thorough investigation of the suspected source was made.

I would emphasise the necessity for immediate notification in Food Poisoning and, in cases of doubt, it is better to have a notification, subsequently cancelled, than to miss a single carrier who may give rise to widespread distress and tragedy in future years.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

The total of new cases notified was 59, as detailed in the following table:—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	F	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0—	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	0	1	0	0	0
2—	1	2	0	0	0	0
5—	0	0	0	1	0	0
10—	3	3	1	0	0	0
15—	3	6	0	0	0	0
20—	2	5	0	0	0	0
25—	1	8	1	0	1	0
35—	4	4	1	1	0	0
45—	2	1	0	0	3	2
55—	6	0	0	0	0	0
65—	1	1	0	0	3	0
75—	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	...	23	30	4	2	8	2	0

An account of Preventive and After-Care work is given under Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care, later in the report.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 172.

There has been no occasion to enforce removal to Hospital of a patient suffering from respiratory Tuberculosis.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

A clinic is held at Chester Royal Infirmary at the following times :

Monday (5—7 p.m.) Female.

Wednesday (5—7 p.m.) Male.

Thursday (5—7 p.m.) Female.

Saturday (11 a.m.—1 p.m.) Male.

The following is the number of Chester patients attending during each year for the last five years :—

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Syphilis	... ...	13	6	5	5 9
Gonnorrhœa	... ...	6	13	12	3 7
Conditions other than Venereal	...	45	27	43	28 42
	—	—	—	—	—
	64	46	60	36	58
	—	—	—	—	—

Warning must be given of the dangers of incomplete treatment. It is so easy to obtain drugs and antibiotics outside the clinics and to have incomplete treatment which relieves the initial symptoms of Venereal Disease (but does not cure it), that there is a real danger of the disease lighting up again in future years in much more serious and tragic forms.

Efforts were made to trace contacts, but the information obtained from clinics and M.I. Rooms is all too scanty and infrequent.

Where case histories have been given, it has been possible—even with scanty information—to secure the co-operation of the patient or contact. I would congratulate the staff on their successes even when it seemed impossible on the information given, to trace people suffering from V.D.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Pathological Departments of the Chester City Hospital, the Royal Infirmary and the Medical Research Council Laboratory at Birkenhead have continued to examine all types of specimens sent either by general practitioners or the Health Department.

There is excellent co-operation between the Laboratories and the Health Department.

SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACTS

1. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN (Section 22).

(i) Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

The Antenatal Clinic which was formerly held at the Princess Street Clinic weekly, was closed down on 1st April, 1954. Almost all of the patients were those whose confinements were booked in the City Hospital, which Hospital has its own Antenatal Clinics. It was suggested that an Antenatal Clinic attended by the Municipal Midwives might be run with advantage to Midwives and patients. Many Doctors are able to devote some time to the teaching of the hygiene of Pregnancy, Relaxation exercises, preparing for the confinement and instruction in Analgesia which would be taught at such a Clinic.

The possibility of a Consultant Antenatal Clinic, attended by Doctors of Consultant status was considered. Here it was felt that the facilities offered by the City Hospital were adequate to deal with the position.

(ii) Infant Welfare.

The following Infant Welfare Clinics are held weekly, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. :—

Monday: St. Martin's House (Central Clinic).

Tuesday: Saltney (Institute, Hope Street) and Hoole (55, Hoole Road).

Wednesday: Blacon (Institute) and Boughton (Civil Defence Headquarters).

Thursday: St. Martin's House.

The Boughton Clinic was opened to aid mothers from that area—a long-felt need, and resulted in a falling off in the attendances at St. Martin's House. Excellent progress was made at this Clinic, but the adaptation of the premises (which were kindly made available by the Civil Defence Committee) leaves much to be desired.

Chester has no purpose-built Clinics, and all the premises used for School work, Maternity and Child Welfare, Dental work, etc., have been adapted. This is not a satisfactory state of affairs and should be remembered when so much pressure is being brought to bear to provide buildings for other purposes—especially those serving far fewer of the population.

ST. MARTIN'S HOUSE INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

The following attendances were made during the year:—

		(1954)	1955
(a) By children under 1 year of age	... ... ...	(2771)	2245
(b) By children between the ages of one and five years	...	(559)	444
Consultations with the Medical Officer:—			
(a) First visits of children under one year	... ...	(279)	—
(b) Subsequent visits	... ... ...	(461)	574
(c) Children (1—5 years) first visits	... ...	(64)	—
(d) Subsequent visits	... ... ...	(187)	107
(e) Mothers	... ... ...	(17)	—

SALTNEY INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

The following attendances were made during the year :—

		(1954)	1955
a) By children under 1 year of age		(1189)	794
b) By children between the ages of one and five years		(131)	108

Consultations with Medical Officer :—

		(1954)	—
a) First visits of children under one year		(101)	—
b) Subsequent visits		(63)	185
c) Children (1—5 years) first visits		(18)	—
d) Subsequent visits		(43)	57
e) Mothers (consultations)		(8)	—

BLACON INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

The following attendances were made during the year :—

		(1954)	1955
a) By children under 1 year of age		(1958)	1252
b) By children between the ages of one and five years		(317)	309

Consultations with the Medical Officer :—

		(1954)	—
a) First visits of children under one year		(157)	—
b) Subsequent visits		(347)	266
c) Children (1—5 years) first visits		(23)	—
d) Subsequent visits		(51)	70
e) Mothers (consultations)		(9)	—

HOOLE INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

The following attendances were made during the year :—

		(1954)	1955
a) By children under 1 year of age		(1232)	1494
b) By children between the ages of one and five years		(142)	252

Consultations with Medical Officer :—

		(1954)	—
a) First visits of children under one year		(143)	—
b) Subsequent visits		(232)	462
c) Children (1—5 years) first visits		(24)	—
d) Subsequent visits		(30)	126
e) Mothers (consultations)		(—)	—

BOUGHTON INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

The following attendances were made during the period 30th November to 31st December, 1955 :—

(a) By children under 1 year of age	10
(b) By children between the ages of one and five years	2

Consultations with Medical Officer :—

(a) First visits of children under one year	10
(b) Subsequent visits	—
(c) Children (1—5 years) first visits	2
(d) Subsequent visits	—
(e) Mothers (consultations)	—

(iii) Premature Infants.

The Premature Baby Unit at the City Hospital was able to cope with most babies below 5½ lbs. so that few were nursed at home. Such nursing equipment as was necessary in the home was available on loan from the District Nurses' Home.

By arrangement with the Physician-in-Charge, the Health Visitors attended at the Premature Baby Unit of the Hospital. Staff shortages prevented as full attendance as would have been liked. On discharge home, Premature Babies were visited by the Health Visitors.

Excellent co-operation was maintained between the Department and the Premature Baby Unit of the City Hospital.

(iv) Supply of Dried Milks, etc. (Welfare Foods)

National Dried Milk and all Welfare Foods and nutrients under the Government Welfare Foods Scheme are available at all the Infant Welfare Clinics. Clerical work is undertaken by the Council's Staff. Many other kinds of Dried Milk Foods and Nutrients are also available at the Clinics, and the Council's Scheme provides for the free issue of these to necessitous cases.

On 9th August, 1954, the Sale of Welfare Foods, which had formerly been a function of the Ministry of Food and which had recently been taken over by the Local Health Authority, was transferred to premises at the Bishop Graham's School, Princess Street.

Two full time Clerks were employed for the Sale of National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin Tablets, and they, together with the Staff of the Department, carried out the necessary clerical and recording work. The Centre at Princess Street is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Two new Distribution Centres were opened in Blacon.

It should be noted that, because of shortage of staff and restricted accommodation, it is not possible to permit the sale of Welfare Food to the general public at Infant Welfare Clinics. We manage, however, to make these foods available for parents who attend the Clinic regularly.

(v) Dental Care.

A letter from the Ministry of Health drew attention to the priority classes (Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Children of pre-school age) and opportunity was made to overhaul the Dental Services to these classes.

Under the new scheme, the priority classes may attend at the Dental Clinic, Princess Street, on any Wednesday afternoon. A full service is provided and all treatment is free.

Both Dental Officers are employed for this service and it was estimated that there would be no detriment to the School Dental Services.

(a)—Numbers provided with Dental Care :

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	34	31	31	27
Children under Five ...	125	115	116	116

(b)—Forms of Dental Treatment provided :

	Sealing and Gum Treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Crowns or Inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures provided		Radio-graphs
							Full Upper or Lower	Partial Upper or Lower	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	6	73	...	..	22	10	4	3	...
Children under Five ...	3	61	49	...	228	118	...	...	1

(vi) Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children.

The Maternity Department of the City Hospital provides the necessary accommodation for a wide area.

The Paediatric Department centred on the City Hospital has accommodation for marasmic and ailing babies and premature infants.

Healthy children up to the age of three are admitted to Kingston House and children over the age of three to Eaton Park View, Wrexham Road, both being administered by the Child Care Committee of the City Council. Periodic examinations and examinations on admission and discharge are carried out by the Medical Officers of the Health Department.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Babies.

Where application for accommodation in Voluntary Mother & Baby Homes was made, the Chester & District Moral Welfare Association enquired into the case and found accommodation in a Home. The Council contributed towards the cost, the normal period being from six weeks before to six weeks after the expected confinement, with the possibility of extension where necessary in the interests of mother and baby.

The cases were followed up at home by the Health Visitors.

Under the Scheme, one unmarried mother was assisted during the year, compared with seven in 1954. These were brought to the notice of the Health Committee by the Chester & District Moral Welfare Association and I would like to pay tribute to the Outdoor Worker for the

work she has done in investigating and arranging for the accommodation of these cases, as well as for other Chester cases not assisted by the Corporation.

It is not an easy matter to find vacancies in the right kind of Mother and Baby Home, and still less to interview putative fathers to try to get them to accept their responsibilities. Yet in all the cases assisted by the Corporation, investigations of this nature were carried out and, where necessary, the expectant mother was advised to apply for an Affiliation Order.

Nursing Homes.

There were two Nursing Homes on the register at the end of the year. The number of available beds was 22, of which 13 were available for Maternity Cases. The Nursing homes are supervised by the Assistant Medical Officers.

Nursery and Child Minders (Regulations) Act, 1948.

Two persons were registered under the Act. The premises were visited by the Medical Officers and Health Visitors, and care was taken to ensure that Fire Fighting provision was adequate.

I am indebted to the Chief Fire Officer for assistance in these cases.

2. MIDWIFERY (Section 23).

The Chester City Council employs 6 Full-time Municipal Midwives for Domiciliary work, under the supervision of a Lay Supervisor (who is Superintendent Health Visitor).

The Ante Natal care of women to be confined at the City Hospital is carried out at the Hospital's Clinic.

All Corporation Midwives are trained in the administration of Gas and Air Analgesia, and also in the use of the newer Trilene Apparatus. One such apparatus was purchased, but this proved to be so popular that provision was made for the purchase of more sets in 1956. Trilene Analgesia is reported to be more efficacious, easier to administer (with the special apparatus) and quite safe. It must be remembered that not all women in labour are willing—for various reasons—to accept analgesia in childbirth.

Close co-operation was maintained between the Municipal Midwives and the doctors undertaking Domiciliary Midwifery, and the Medical Aid Scheme provided for adequate medical attendance at the confinement, the Doctors' fees being paid either under their arrangements with the Executive Council, or by the Corporation (if another Doctor had to be called).

47 cases were so attended.

The City Hospital referred to the Health Department those cases who wished to book confinements at the Hospital, but did not fall into one of the necessitous groups, and, where home circumstances permitted, arrangements were made for confinement at home. Conversely, where home circumstances rendered home confinement undesirable, the case was referred to the City Hospital.

At one time during the year, owing to resignations and deaths, the number of Midwives on the staff fell to 3. Repeated advertisement produced no result and, for a time, the staff had great difficulty in meeting the demands made upon them. Due, however, to their perseverance and loyalty, all commitments were eventually covered and it was not necessary to take any extraordinary steps.

The shortage of Midwives appears to be widespread—as, indeed, is the shortage of Nurses. We hope the former will not be allowed to continue as long as the latter.

The Midwives are equipped with, and trained in, the use of Blood Pressure Apparatus for the early detection of the Toxaemias of Pregnancy.

278 confinements were attended by the Municipal Midwives as Midwives and 16 as Maternity Nurses.

STATISTICS.

No. of cases attended as midwives	...	...	...	...	...	278
No. of cases attended as maternity nurses	...	...	...	...	...	16
No. of ante-natal visits	...	...	...	...	...	2094
No. of daily nursing visits	...	...	...	...	...	4980
No. of miscarriages attended	...	...	...	...	...	—
No. of cases given gas and air analgesia:—						
(a) As midwife	...	...	...	...	...	88
(b) as maternity nurse	...	...	...	...	...	6
Doctors called in by midwives	...	...	...	...	...	47
Notifications of artificial feeding	...	...	...	...	...	—

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

Total number of births notified	...	...	...	...	...	1862
Cases attended and delivered by the doctors	...	...	...	...	...	23
Cases attended in Nursing Homes	...	...	...	...	...	200
Cases attended and delivered by midwives	...	...	...	...	...	278
Cases attended in Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	1361
Number of Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	31

Of the 278 births attended by Midwives, in 47 cases Medical Aid was required. The necessity arose from the following causes:—

Lacerated perinaeum	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Illness of child	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Complication before labour	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Complication during labour	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Complication during 'lying in' period	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Temperature	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Abnormality of child	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stillbirth	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
						Total	47

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases were notified during the year.

3. HEALTH VISITING (Section 24).

Eight full-time Health Visitor-School Nurses are employed, and a Superintendent who is also Supervisor of Midwives.

The duties of the staff are divided into half School work and half Health Visitors' work. Under the latter, there were various Clinics to attend—Immunisations, B.C.G., Infant Welfare, Sunlight, Dental Anaesthetics, and visits to Hospitals—while the visits to homes were made for many special functions in addition to the usual visits under Maternal and Infant Welfare and Care of the Sick; special visits included:—

- (a) Aged Sick
- (b) Tuberculosis
- (c) Mental Defectives
- (d) Lunacy Act
- (e) Problem Families
- (f) V.D. Contacts
- (g) Cancer Research
- (h) National Survey of Nutrition etc.

In the cases of children discharged after In-Patient Treatment, the Hospitals sent to the Health Department copies of the reports to the General Medical Practitioners and following-up visits were made by the Health Visitor-School Nurses.

The following visits were paid by the Health Visitors (excluding School Nurses' work).

Primary Birth Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	877
Return Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2542
Visits to children (1-5 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9131
Visits to Expectant Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	...	390
Other Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2134
Visits to Midwives	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Visits to Cases of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	603

4. HOME NURSING SERVICE (Section 25).

The District Nurses' Home is affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, and provides residence for the Superintendent and six District Nurses. Owing to recruitment difficulties, it has been necessary to appoint some Nurses not resident at the Home, but who take their turn of night duty.

No regular Night Shift is worked, but a rota of Evening and Emergency Duty is done by all Nursing Staff. The total staff employed at the end of the year was the Superintendent, six Full time District Nurses and two Part time Nurses.

The ESTABLISHMENT was increased by one Part time Home Nurse to cope with the increase of cases, especially of elderly patients :—

	Total number of Cases	Total number of Visits	New Cases
1954	...	1108	26299
1955	...	1267	29394

No special provision of staff was made for the HOME NURSING of SICK CHILDREN, and none of the staff specialised in this branch of the work. It is the practice, however, to give priority to sick children in order to relieve the burden on the parents and to educate them in this work.

One District Nurse attended a REFRESHER COURSE during the year, bringing this Service into alignment with the other Medical and Nursing Services of the Authority.

Transport arrangements.—Bicycles are provided by the Authority and new machines have been purchased. Where the Nurses use their own motor cycles, motor scooters or motor assisted cycles, a travelling allowance is given.

Nursing equipment is available and during the year 224 articles were on loan or hire.

The following table gives an analysis of the work done :—

HOME NURSING SERVICE

DISTRICTS

	Medical	Surgical	Infectious Disease	Tuber-culosis	Maternal	Injections, Others	Aged 65 yrs. and over on First Visit	Aged under 5	Cases receiving more than 24 Visits	Total					
NEWTON	Cases	84	13	—	2	35	63	8	33	136	
					Visits	2008	146	—	99	12	1056	1540	32	3321	
BOUGHTON	Cases	94	24	—	2	—	50	92	28	34	170
					Visits	1475	791	—	30	—	1154	2464	28	3450	
SALTNEY	Cases	71	22	—	2	—	60	43	9	32	155
					Visits	1499	573	—	15	—	1295	1232	71	3382	
HANDBRIDGE	Cases	67	25	—	—	1	60	76	4	40	153
					Visits	1712	1018	—	—	8	1689	2493	19	4427	
BLACON	Cases	91	37	—	3	1	92	82	24	55	224
					Visits	2222	843	—	103	7	1445	2299	140	4620	
GARDEN LANE (from October)	Cases	13	7	—	—	—	11	14	3	6	31
					Visits	183	106	—	—	—	165	168	18	454	
CENTRAL	Cases	70	23	—	1	1	103	81	8	36	198
					Visits	2076	1004	—	1	2	1225	2710	39	4308	
HOOLE	Cases	101	23	—	2	—	74	96	6	42	200
					Visits	2500	613	—	37	—	2282	2647	30	5432	
TOTALS	Cases	591	174	—	42	5	485	547	90	278	1267
					Visits	13675	5094	—	285	29	10311	15553	377	29391	

The total numbers of Cases and Visits in 1954 were 1,108 and 26,299 respectively.

Number of cases on books, 1/1/55, carried over from 1954 ... 193

Number of new cases 1071

Of the 1,267 cases attended, 547 were aged 65 or over and, of the total visits (29,394), 15,553 were paid to these.

The average number of nurses employed full time was ... 8

The average number of hours worked by each daily was ... 8

The average number of hours worked by each per week was ... 48

192

5. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (Section 26).

With the commencement, this year, of B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis, the following immunological facilities are provided by the Council:—

- (1) Vaccination against Smallpox
- (2) Immunisation against Diphtheria
- (3) Immunisation against Whooping Cough
- (4) B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

(1) Vaccination against Smallpox.

Because of the excessive wastage in holding stocks of vaccine lymph at the Health Department, all cases requesting Vaccination are referred to their own General Medical Practitioners. International Certificates of Vaccination were authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health. In emergency (i.e. on the threat of possible contact with cases of Smallpox), all the staff of the Department are offered vaccination.

AGES	NUMBER		NUMBER RE-VACCINATED
	VACCINATED	.....
0—1 years	159	.....	—
1—4 years	201	.....	6
5—14 years	28	.....	11
15 years and over	47	.....	143
Totals	435	.....	160

(2) Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Parents are given the option of having this done by their own General Medical Practitioner or of attending the Clinics. Children of pre-school age are immunised at the Infant Welfare Clinics (q.v.), and school children receive their injections and reinforcing doses at the end of the School Medical Inspections.

Records of these—and all—immunisations are kept in the Department and are transferred on change of address.

The Table on the following page shows the number of children immunised against Diphtheria.

(3) Immunisation against Whooping Cough.

This is available on request from the patient's own Doctor or at the Infant Welfare Clinics, and is usually—though not necessarily—given in conjunction with Diphtheria Immunisation. Three injections are necessary.

(4) B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

In accordance with the approved scheme, vaccination with B.C.G. against Tuberculosis was offered to all pupils at school in the City between their 13th and 14th birthdays. A good response was obtained and 412 were tested and, where necessary, vaccinated intradermally with B.C.G. Very few abnormal reactions were reported.

As the scheme is continuous—year after year—the effect of this measure in reducing the incidence of “adult” Pulmonary Tuberculosis will gradually become apparent in the years to come. It is noted, however, that statistically the results have been good in countries where B.C.G. Vaccination has been adopted for some little time. Many factors may be given as the cause of the diminishing incidence of T.B., but it would be unwise not to adopt B.C.G.—or any other satisfactory procedure—in this country, which might lessen the distressing incidence of Tuberculosis.

Reciprocal arrangements were made for the vaccination of Cheshire County Pupils at Chester Schools, and City Pupils at Schools in the County.

Estimated No. of Pupils in the Age Groups (approx.)	...	...	900
No. of Pupils tested ...	...	...	412
No. of these Mantoux Positive ...	...	...	141
No. of these Mantoux Negative ...	...	...	272
No. given B.C.G. Vaccination ...	...	...	272

The Medical Officers of the Authority who carried out the Mantoux testing, and subsequent vaccination, attended a course of special instruction therein.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Age in Years 31st Dec. of the corres- ponding year.	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total inocu- lated 1941-1955
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	16	14	18	123	109	39	43	Age under 1 year
1	105	320	221	184	230	243	288	191	378	284	217	233	215	329	284	
2	80	202	113	80	102	108	84	294	140	74	58	70	32	101	97	Age 0-4 years
3	70	184	63	37	37	40	39	78	35	24	21	39	19	50	29	1687
4	21	20	54	32	29	31	44	55	30	57	27	18	20	36	28	
5	74	308	88	174	118	73	84	96	61	163	48	50	76	88	30	
6	80	374	59	61	87	54	54	60	41	58	15	33	78	53	17	Age 5-9 yrs
7	40	201	62	28	28	44	17	51	6	17	2	20	21	16	11	Completed: 1951-1955...1056 1950 or earlier ...1805
8	56	134	42	10	15	58	11	20	...	6	2	20	2	6	3	2861
9	54	147	43	11	12	49	12	6	2	6	3	10	1	3	1	
10	36	111	36	9	12	46	6	9	6	5	1	5	...	2	3	
11	17	89	30	9	2	45	13	6	8	12	3	5	...	2	9	Age 10-14 yrs.
12	22	82	21	6	3	36	5	4	6	2	...	...	3	1	6	Completed: 1951-1955... 115 1950 or earlier ...2881
13	9	54	29	2	...	26	7	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2996
14	...	20	28	5	2	75	2	3	4	12	5	...	...	...	...
15 and over	...	...	18	...	...	15	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	Age 15 years and over 4438
Total each Year	664	2246	907	648	677	928	691	879	737	734	420	626	576	726	566	GRAND TOTAL 12025
Re- inoculations	...	...	...	...	...	1987	955	609	1023	786	698	676	965	893	1044	Total Re-Inoculations 9636

6. AMBULANCE SERVICE (Section 27).

The City Ambulance Service also operates a service by agreement for contiguous parts of the Counties of Cheshire and Flintshire.

The Staff consists of an Officer-in-Charge, 15 Driver/Attendants and one Clerk/Telephonist.

I am pleased to report that better co-operation was maintained with the Hospitals, so that long ambulance journeys which should have been undertaken by public transport, have not been so frequent. Ministry of Health Circulars have emphasized that transport should not be expected because a patient has luggage, nor should relatives be called to travel with the patient to the exclusion of other patients.

Too often the Hospitals ask for journeys for the convenience of the patient. More consideration must be shown for the problems of the Local Health Authority administering the Service. The prime consideration in all cases should be the MEDICAL necessity of the patient, and other factors, e.g., convenience to the patient or his relatives, must take second place. The Local Authority will do what it can to co-operate with the Hospitals in these matters, but it must be realised that this Service is primarily an Ambulance Service and not a Transport Service.

It will be noted that the total mileage run by the Ambulances is increasing year by year.

YEAR	TOTAL MILES	TOTAL NO. OF PATIENTS CARRIED
1951	64,685	7,662
1952	64,221	7,903
1953	66,065	10,600
1954	73,250	15,753
1955	82,396	17,408

The periodic maintenance of the vehicles by the Transport Department has resulted in a better standard of upkeep and reliability than was possible hitherto, and credit is also due to the Ambulance Staff for their part in the care and maintenance of the vehicles.

Vehicles :—

- Bedford 25 h.p. First registered 1948.
- Bedford 25 h.p. First registered 1949.
- Bedford 25 h.p. First registered 1951.
- Bedford 15 h.p. First registered 1953 (Sitting Case Vehicle).
- Bedford 28 h.p. First registered 1954.
- Bedford 15 h.p. First registered 1954 (Sitting Case Vehicle).

The supply of petrol to the Ambulance Vehicles demanded our attention when it was found that the charge for handling the supply was higher than many other Local Authorities. Bound up with this question was that of providing a more suitable Ambulance Depot which could cope with the increased number of vehicles, and the increasing work of the Department. I do not consider that the expense involved in fitting the Ambulances out with Radio Telephones would be justified yet. Account must be taken of the size of the area served and the increasing provision by the County Councils for that part of their area covered by the City Service.

The table on the following page gives particulars of the work carried out during the financial year ended 31st March, 1956.

AMBULANCE SERVICE. Year ended 31st March, 1956.

AUTHORITY	PATIENTS CARRIED										MILEAGE								
	JOURNEYS					[3] Stretcher			[4] Sitting			[5] Accident and Emergency		[6]	Total [3 & 4]	Total			
	Amb.	[1] S.V.	[2] Occ.	Amb.	S.V.	Total	Amb.	S.V.	Total	Amb.	S.V.	Occ.	Amb.						
CITY ...	2940	2372	695	5321	2208	19	2227	2187	11221	13408	497	55	552	6325	15635	37473	28360	7330	63833
CHESHIRE ...	768	567	...	1335	519	1	520	317	679	996	220	4	224	385	1516	9751	4233	1973	13984
FLINTSHIRE	178	75	...	253	89	...	89	75	73	148	48	2	50	...	237	1687	541	...	2228
OTHER ...	9	5	...	14	5	...	5	10	5	15	5	...	5	...	20	160	191	...	351
TOTALS ...	3904	3018	695	6923	2821	20	2841	2589	11978	14567	770	61	831	6710	17408	49071	33325	9303	82396

NOTE : AMB.—Ambulance ; S.V.—Sitting Case Vehicle ; OCC.—Occupation Centre. Column 1 includes Column 2 ; Columns 3 and 4 include Columns 5 and 6 ; Column 7 includes Column 8.

7. PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE & AFTER-CARE (Section 28).

(i) Tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis Medical Officer of the Regional Hospital Board at the City Hospital is employed on one session per week for Preventive and After Care work. B.C.G. Vaccinations were done at the Chest Clinic.

The B.C.G Scheme for vaccination of School Children was started during the year. Details are given under the appropriate section.

A system of weekly cross- notification between the Health Department and the Chest Clinic (City Hospital) ensures continuity of Preventive measures. There was close liaison between the Chest Clinic and the Health Department. One Health Visitor was appointed to attend at the Clinic and to visit Tuberculosis Patients in their homes. A great improvement in the liaison between the two centres was immediately apparent. One Domestic Help for work in Tuberculosis Households was also appointed.

I would like to thank the Doctors and Staff of the Clinic for their great help during the year. Preventive Tuberculosis work has been enhanced and has assumed a more concrete and purposeful form. It was easier also to assess the relative needs for rehousing of Tuberculosis Families and much greater activity in this field was possible.

Residential After Care at Wrenbury Hall (County Council) and Preston Hall Colonies was provided for selected cases, and the Council also contributed towards the cost of patients at other Tuberculosis Colonies.

Home Nursing Equipment was available on loan, and the Council has provided a Garden Shelter in one case.

No. of patients receiving B.C.G. Vaccination through Chest Clinic	83
No. of visits to patients by Health Visiting Staff	503
No. of patients assisted in T.B. Colonies	3
No. of Contacts (City) examined at Chest Clinic	578
No. of these found to have Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2

Contacts of patients notified as dying from Tuberculosis are investigated in the same way as those notified during life. Employment conditions are investigated in all notified cases and there is liaison between the Chest Clinic and the Medical Officer of Health from this aspect.

Mobile Mass Radiography Unit.

The Number 3 unit of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board visited the City from 1st December, 1954 to 11th April, 1955 and was centred on the Civil Defence Headquarters, Boughton. Visits were made to industrial concerns and to large communities. Full details are given below :—

		M.	F.	Total
Total No. of Miniature Examinations	... ...	6375	7379	13754
Total abnormal films	... ...	167	97	264

Classification of abnormalities discovered.

Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	8	9	17
Inactive Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	38	21	59
Bronchiectasis	...	...	...	7	4	11
Neoplasm	...	...	...	1	0	1
Cardiac abnormalities	...	...	...	22	16	38
T.B.—Known cases	...	...	...	1	1	2
Other abnormalities	...	...	...	90	46	136

The findings at Mass Radiography of one School Teacher suffering from active Pulmonary Tuberculosis was followed by a Radiographic investigation of the School Contacts.

Fortunately, there was no extension to the pupils or other staff, and I am pleased to report, at the time of writing, a happy outcome in this case.

(ii) Blind Persons.

The Chester & District Blind Welfare Society give the following data :—

	On Register		New Cases 1955		Deaths 1955	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Blind	40	56	5	11	4	5
Partially Sighted	2	9	2	—	—	—

A.—FOLLOW-UP OF REGISTERED BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSONS.

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Rentrolental Fibroplasia	Other
(i) Number of cases registered during year in respect of which para. 7(c) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :	—	—	—	1
(a) No treatment	—	—	—	1
(b) Treatment (Medical, Surgical or Optical) ..	10	—	—	3
(ii) Number of cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	4	—	—	3

B.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year	Nil.
(ii) Number of cases in which :— a. Vision lost b. Vision impaired c. Treatment continuing at end of year	Nil.

(iii) Epileptics and Spastics.

Epileptic and Spastic children of school age are dealt with under the Education Acts.

Two adult epileptics are maintained by the Welfare Department in Colonies. One, who left a Colony several months ago, is happily settled in a permanent job. Four adult spastics are on the register, two of whom attend a handicrafts class and are transported by Ambulance.

(iv) Illness Generally.

Besides the Health Visiting, Home Nursing and Domestic Help Schemes, nursing equipment was available from the District Nurses' Home. During the year 224 articles were loaned.

Close liaison has been maintained with Hospitals regarding home circumstances and to enable needy patients to obtain Convalescent treatment.

The Health Visitors paid 2,881 visits to cases of illness.

8. DOMESTIC HELPS (Section 29).

Twelve Full time Domestic Helps and one Organiser were employed. One special Help, for Tuberculosis families, was appointed temporarily and subsequently retained on the staff when a vacancy occurred. Because so many elderly sick people live alone, a great strain was put on the staff and, in many cases, an almost impossible situation was relieved by the kindness of neighbours. It will be remembered that sons and daughters have sometimes great difficulty in looking after aged sick parents when the house is small or the housewife goes—or has to go—out to work. An ageing population will of necessity make greater and greater demands on the Chronic Sick Hospital Accommodation as years go on. We have felt the pinch early in Chester, and the prospect is gloomy indeed.

A Night Sitter Service was investigated. The difficulties of recruitment of a regular panel of Night Sitters were apparent to the Voluntary Organisations who were approached. Some voluntary bodies already give help to the households of the aged sick.

We considered most carefully the Conditions of Service of the Domestic Helps, in relation to the demand for help over the Statutory Holidays and weekends. A better arrangement of duties resulted, and the staff are to be congratulated in their willingness to help satisfy this need.

The mere statistical summary of the work done (given herewith) does not give any indication of the high standard of this Service. Although rarely a grumble is received, I am more than pleased to report

the number of letters of appreciation from householders using the Helps. This Service is a costly one, but it fulfils one great need in homes where the provision of a housekeeper is impossible.

Eighty per cent. of the total number of hours worked were for the aged, chronic sick and infirm cases.

TYPE OF CASE	NO. OF CASES	HOURS WORKED
(a) Acute Illness	40	3395
(b) Maternity	17	848
(c) Tuberculosis	—	—
(d) Aged, Infirm and Chronic Sick	68	17692
(e) Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency	2	166
	—	—
	127	22101
	—	—

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Talks were given in the Infant Welfare Clinics to groups of mothers by Health Visitors. Pamphlets and Posters were exhibited in the Infant Welfare Clinics, Dental Clinic and the Health Department.

Illustrated lectures to Food Handlers were given by the Staff during the year.

Members of the Staff of Sanitary Inspectors and of Health Visitors undertook to give some lectures in the training course for Nurses at the Royal Infirmary. Such close liaison between two branches of the Service goes a long way to establish better working co-operation, and it is hoped that this will continue.

9. MENTAL HEALTH.

Administration.

The Staff employed consisted of the Medical Officer of Health, the Assistant Medical Officers of Health (all three of whom are approved for the purposes of the Ascertainment and Certification of Mental Defectives), two part-time Duly Authorised Officers and such services of Health Visitors as were necessary. No Psychiatric Social Workers or Mental Health Workers are employed.

There was no joint use of officers of other Authorities. Patients on trial from Mental Hospitals and on leave or licence from Mental Deficiency Hospitals were supervised by the Authorised Officers, Health Visitors or, in special cases, by the Medical Officer of Health. Reports were received from the Mental Hospitals of patients on discharge therefrom.

No duties were delegated to Voluntary Organisations.

Prevention of Mental Illness.

An After-Care Club, which had been formed under the guidance of the Staff of the Hospital, began its meetings in premises provided by the Health and Education Departments. Meetings were held fortnightly or weekly.

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

The following numbers of Patients were dealt with:—

1955	Certified.		Voluntary.		Sect. 20-21		No Action	After Care Visits
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
	8	7	68	88	27	35		
TOTALS ...	15		156		62		22	117
Discharged ...	5	6	58	74	9	16		
Died ...	...	6	...	2	3	2		

The Duty Authorised Officers' Report.

"A somewhat alarming feature during the year appears to be the number of attempted suicides dealt with, which numbered 31. The majority, however, resided in the Cheshire or Flintshire Areas, having been admitted to the Royal Infirmary or City Hospital in the first instance.

"We thank the Medical Officer of Health for his assistance in all matters and appreciate the willing co-operation rendered by the City and County Magistrates who have at all times attended on request as the Judicial Authority necessary for the purpose of certification and the admission of patients under Sections 20 and 21 of the Lunacy Acts.

"The majority of Chronic Mental cases are now being admitted under Sections 20 and 21, and after treatment, certification is seldom necessary."

The Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-38:—

(i) Ascertainment of Mental Defectives is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health and 2 Assistant Medical Officers of Health. In borderline cases, the policy, especially with children, has been to give them every opportunity for Education (in special classes if need be) before reaching a final decision on their non-educability. After notification to the Local Health Authority, re-examination is carried out as an additional check. Particularly difficult cases are referred to the Regional Hospital Board's Consultant Psychiatrist who has special experience in such cases.

Statutory and Voluntary Supervision is the work of the Health Visitors, though special cases may be visited by the Medical Officers. The normal period for visits is three-monthly, though it will be appreciated that stable cases may only require visits annually, and difficult cases may require more frequent supervision. Certain of these visits may also be done by the Authorised Officers.

(ii) Guardianship: There were no Mental Defectives under Guardianship in the City of Chester.

(iii) Occupation Centre: The attendances at the Centre continue to rise and it is anticipated that another Authority will agree to send cases in the coming year. The Committee expressed its appreciation of gifts of a Sewing Machine, a Fretworking Machine and other help from the Handicapped Children's Society (Chester).

A visit was paid by the Sub-Committee and Staff to Hope School, Wigan, (a purpose built Occupation Centre) at the invitation of the Wigan Health Committee, in November, and valuable information was gained in the costs of such a Centre as well as in the work thereof.

The transport of Defectives by the City Ambulance Service to and from the Centre was improved and helped to maintain regular attendances.

(iv) Other Services: One "Spastic" child was found to be a borderline case and it was decided to give him the chance of normal education. He was "denotified", therefore, in accordance with Section 8 of the Education Act, 1948. That such action is only rarely possible is a tribute to the accuracy of assessment originally made. In this case, the picture was complicated by Spasticity, which also gave rise to a speech disorder.

All defectives in the area are visited by the Staff—usually Health Visitors—at necessary intervals. Only in very few instances has parental opposition and lack of co-operation prevented defectives attending the Centre. Help has been given by W.V.S. and other Voluntary Bodies to the families of Defectives in difficulties.

SHORT TERM CARE was arranged for one spastic helpless child for two months during a time of family difficulty. The shortage of suitable Hospital Accommodation was acutely apparent in this and other difficult cases.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946
 MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913—1938

Local Health Services

	Under age 16	Aged 16 and over
M.	F.	M.

1. Particulars of cases reported during 1955

(a)	Cases at 31st December, 1955, ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" ...	— — — —						
	Number in which action taken on reports by:							
	(1) Local Education Authorities on children							
	(i) While at school or liable to attend school	I	— — —					
	(ii) On leaving special schools	—	— — —					
	(iii) On leaving ordinary schools	—	— — —					
	(2) Police or by Courts	—	— — —					
	(3) Other sources	—	— I I					
(b)	Cases reported who were found to be defectives but were not, at 31st December, 1955, regarded as "subject to be dealt with" on any ground	— — — —						
(c)	Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives or in which action was incomplete at 31st December, 1955, and are thus excluded from (a) or (b)	— — — —						
		<hr/>						
	TOTAL	I	—	I	I			
		<hr/>						

2. Disposal of cases reported during 1955.

(a)	Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1(a)), number	— — — —			
	(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision ...	I	— I I		
	(ii) Placed under Guardianship	—	— — —		
	(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"	—	— — —		
	(iv) Admitted to Hospitals	—	— — —		
(b)	Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" (i.e., at 1(b)), number	— — — —			
	(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision ...	—	— — —		
	(ii) Action unnecessary	—	— — —		
		<hr/>			
	TOTAL	I	—	I	I
		<hr/>			

3. Number of mental defectives for whom care was arranged by the local health authority under Circular 5/52 during 1955 and admitted to

(a)	National Health Service hospitals	— — — —			
	(b) Elsewhere	— — — —			
		<hr/>			
	TOTAL	I	— — —		
		<hr/>			

4. Total cases on Authority's Registers at 31/12/55

(i)	Under Statutory Supervision ...	...	...	7	12	25	25
(ii)	Under Guardianship ...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii)	In "Places of Safety" ...	...	...	—	1	—	—
(iv)	In Hospitals ...	...	...	1	1	27	19
(v)	Under Voluntary Supervision	...	...	—	—	8	9
				TOTAL	8	14	60
							53

5. Number of defectives under Guardianship on 31st December, 1955, who were dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 or 9, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913. (Included in 4(ii)) ...

— — — —

6. Classification of defectives in the Community on 31/12/55 (according to need at that date)

(a) Cases included in 4(i)—(iii) in need of hospital care and reported accordingly to the hospital authority

4 6 9 4

(1) In urgent need of hospital care:—

(i)	"cot and chair" cases ...	...	...	—	1	—	—
(ii)	ambulant low grade cases ...	...	...	1	—	4	1
(iii)	medium grade cases ...	...	...	2	1	2	2
(iv)	high grade cases ...	...	...	—	—	1	—

Total urgent cases

3 2 7 3

(2) Not in urgent need of hospital care:—

(i)	"cot and chair" cases ...	...	...	—	2	—	—
(ii)	ambulant low grade cases ...	...	...	1	1	1	1
(iii)	medium grade cases ...	...	...	—	1	1	—
(iv)	high grade cases ...	...	...	—	—	—	—

Total non-urgent cases

1 4 2 1

(b) Of the cases included in items 4(i), (ii) and (v), number considered suitable for:—

(i)	occupation centre ...	...	...	6	6	7	12
(ii)	industrial centre ...	...	...	—	—	6	—
(iii)	home training ...	...	...	—	—	3	1

TOTAL

6 6 16 13

(c) Of the cases included in 6(b), number receiving training on 31/12/55:—

(i)	In occupation centre ...	...	...	6	6	4	9
(ii)	In industrial centre ...	...	...	—	—	—	—
(iii)	At home ...	...	...	—	—	—	—

TOTAL

6 6 4 9

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Two patients were the subject of Compulsory Removal Orders during the year.

The first was a single lady of 84, living alone and in desperately bad, dirty conditions, with no relatives to help. Her mental condition subsequently made her removal to Mental Hospital necessary.

The second case, a single lady of about 70 years, emaciated and ill, was removed to Welfare Accommodation and transferred to General Hospital. Three months later she returned to Welfare Accommodation, where she elected to remain voluntarily, much improved in health.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

(1) Residential Nurseries.

The Medical Officers carried out routine examinations of the Children in Kingston House (Children's Department) and of those in the Children's Home, Eaton Park View on admission, discharge and special occasions.

Both the homes come under the care of the Child Care Committee.

(2) Superannuation Examinations.

Staff of all Corporation Departments were examined by the Medical Officers for the purpose of determining their fitness for (a) Employment (b) Entry into the various Sickness Pay Schemes (c) Entry into the Corporation Superannuation Scheme.

In the case of Staff associated with School Children, the examinations have included X-Ray of chest (usually done at the Mass Radiography Unit), and for teachers in the Education Department, full reports on Forms 4 R.T.C. and 28 R.Q. were made.

The number of examinations in the year was 431 and for comparison with previous years:—

1952—204	1953—338	1954—412	1955—431
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WATER.

The City water supply is derived from the River Dee and is supplied by the Chester Waterworks Company. The water is filtered and chlorinated at the Company's works.

The standard of purity, absence of bacillus coli in 100 c.c.'s of the water as supplied to the consumer has been maintained during the year.

Bacteriological examinations of the water supply including water from various filter beds have been carried out twice a month. In addition, chemical analyses of water from a consumer's tap have been carried out by the Public Analyst every month, and the following table gives the result of these analyses, which conforming to the recognised standard method of reporting results are shown in parts per million of water.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF CITY WATER SUPPLY, 1955.

Parts per 1,000,000 of Water	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July,		Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Total Solid Matter in Solution	... 160.0	105.0	120.0	140.0	120.0	140.0	200.0	220.0	182.0	130.0	160.0	130.0	160.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates...	... 1.50	1.25	1.0	1.25	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.5	0.75	0.5	1.25	0.5	1.25
Nitrates	... Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chlorine in Chlorides	... ...	... 20.0	24.0	26.0	22.0	20.0	29.0	49.0	53.0	34.0	17.0	26.0	17.0
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80° F.	... 0.69	0.77	1.01	0.49	0.98	0.91	0.65	1.0	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.04	0.04
Free and Saline Ammonia	... Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02
Albuminoid Ammonia	... 0.06	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03
Lead, Copper, Zinc	... Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Microscopical Examination of Sediment	... Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Temporary Hardness	... 50.0	85.0	60.0	50.0	55.0	70.0	100.0	155.0	80.0	45.0	55.0	45.0	55.0
Permanent Hardness	... 45.0	55.0	40.0	50.0	75.0	50.0	50.0	45.0	45.0	30.0	25.0	30.0	25.0
pH Value	... 7.0	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.0	7.0	6.8	7.0	6.8
Residual Free Chlorine	... 0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05

HEALTH OF CHILDREN—PREVENTION OF BREAK-UP OF FAMILIES

(Ministry of Health Circular 27/54)

The steps taken by the Authority in accordance with this Circular covered a very large proportion of the Part III Services, and reference to them is made, in the main, under the various headings of this Report.

Problem Families were discussed at meetings of the officers concerned, and a closer, earlier liaison resulted between the Health, Children's, Welfare and Housing Departments.

The Health Visitors attended lectures arranged by adjacent Authorities on this subject, and they were encouraged in their social case work. In households where overcrowding, ill health or marital disharmony threatened, reference was made to the appropriate department or Voluntary body, and active follow-up was maintained.

One of the Health Visitors was employed specially for Tuberculosis Visiting. She attended the Chest Clinic weekly, and also reported on the Home Circumstances. Families requiring rehousing because of Tuberculosis were given priority. A special Domestic Help was employed to work in Tuberculosis Households, and the Domestic Help Staff was increased.

For families beset by the spectre of Mental Ill-Health, an After Care Club was accommodated in the Clinic premises. After Care Visiting for these cases was done either by the Authorised Officers or by the Health Visitors themselves, and Discharge Reports from Mental Hospitals were available to guide them.

Because of their dual role of Health Visitor-School Nurse, the staff followed up difficult children at home, and any domestic disharmony was brought to light. The children were treated at the Child Guidance Clinic rather than have them sent away to Special Boarding Schools. Close contact was maintained between Family Doctors and School Teachers. There was a great improvement in communication between Nursing Staff and the Family Doctor—both by letter, telephone and also by personal contact. A meeting was held in the Health Department for this purpose. Better co-operation was activated between the Staff and Children's Officer, Probation Officer, Officers of the N.S.P.C.C. and other bodies.

The Domestic Help Staff was increased (as also were the District Nurses) to cope with this new aspect of their work, and with the greater demand on their services. Voluntary bodies in the City were approached regarding the possibility of setting up a panel of Night Sitters. It is unfortunate that it was not possible to inaugurate this new Service, and reliance has still to be placed on good neighbours and some religious bodies.

Convalescent retraining for one family was considered, but it was felt that the provision of a special Domestic Help to teach housecraft offered better prospects. The results were gratifying.

A Marriage Guidance Clinic was also envisaged, but it was decided not to provide one in the City.

Among the Voluntary Organisations and bodies which have assisted the department in many ways to keep the family unit together, must be mentioned:—

The British Red Cross and St. John's Societies, Women's Voluntary Services, N.S.P.C.C., Chester Council of Social Services, Diocesan Board of Moral Welfare, and the Chester Sick Poor Fund. (This list is not complete).

Admission to Nursery Schools has often helped to keep the family together and the Nursing Staff have frequently been able to call on other branches of the family to help during night time or over difficult periods.

This branch of our work—the task of keeping the family unit intact—is perhaps one of our most important duties. When family ties are relaxed by changing social circumstances, when economic difficulties appear so insuperable and when international relations are being adjusted to the Atomic Age, we must remember that the basis of all National life, human culture and civilisation is the family.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1955.

The Sanitary Inspectatorial Staff continued at 50 per cent. of its establishment for ten months of the year. Fortunately, by the end of the year, new appointments brought the number to establishment.

INSPECTION OF AREA

Environmental Hygiene.

Complaints received—Dwellings	...	...	...	590
Complaints received—Other Premises	...	...	...	84
Visits in respect of complaints—Dwellings	...	...	...	1839
Visits in respect of complaints—Other Premises	...	...	...	342
Dwellings :—				
			Inspections	
		First	Sbsqnt.	Total
(a) Notifiable Diseases	...	...	21	7
(b) Food Poisoning Visits	...	...	8	34
(c) Defects and repairs	...	...	486	1853
(d) Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	6	21
(e) Overcrowding	...	...	7	2
(f) Prospective Corporation Tenants	166		42	208
(g) Vermin	...	...	60	34
(h) Dustbins	...	...	6	10
(i) Other Purposes	...	...	66	46
Common Lodging House, visits	...	...	...	10
Factories, visits	...	...	...	163
Shops, Act, inspections	...	...	...	608
Schools, inspections	...	...	...	8
Smoke abatement, observations, etc.	...	...	...	23
Number of complaints of smoke nuisance	...	...	...	9
Licensed premises, inspections	...	...	...	118
Offices, inspections	...	...	...	43
Other business premises, (excluding Factories)	...	...	...	10
Squatters' Camp, visits	...	...	...	1
Cinemas and Theatre, inspections	...	...	...	1
Canal Boats, inspections	...	...	...	9
Tents, Vans and Sheds, inspections	...	...	...	13
Offensive trades (excluding Fish and Chip Shops), inspections	...	...	...	2
Rag Flock premises, visits	...	...	...	8
Pet Shops	...	...	...	18
Piggeries	...	...	...	10

Stables, visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Brooks and Streams, inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Waste ground and common passages, inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Rats and Mice Destruction, visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	4476
Drainage work :—							
(a) No. of premises involved	...	...	...	...	...	...	289
(b) Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1331
(c) Tests applied	...	...	...	...	...	...	244
Premises disinfected after infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Premises disinfested for vermin	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Prospective Corporation tenants' houses disinfested for vermin	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Food Hygiene, etc.							
Inspections of Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Inspections of Hotels (Catering)	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Inspections of Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Inspections of Dairies, Milk Shops, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Inspections of General Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Inspections of Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Inspections of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Inspections of Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Inspections of Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Inspections of Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Inspections of Public Market	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Inspections of Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Inspections of Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Administration.							
(a) Number of letters sent re nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	845
(b) Number of Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	199
(c) Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
(d) Legal Proceedings in default	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

The majority of nuisances are remedied by informal action and the co-operation of those concerned.

SECTION 92 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

(1) Case adjourned at first hearing, work having been commenced since issue of Summons.
 Summons withdrawn at second hearing.
 (Legal proceedings instituted under Food and Drugs Acts and Chester Corporation Act, 1929, are shown later in this report).

HOUSING.

Undertakings to close for human habitation the undementioned 16 houses were accepted by the City Council, under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936:—

Part (B)

2 and 4, Edwards Court, Duke Street; 25, Oulton Place; 2 and 4, Watkins Court, Pitt Street; 3, Lewis Court, Back Thomas Street; 38a, Handbridge; 3, Green Lane Cottages, Saltney; 4, Keartland Place, Bridge Street Row; 6, York Street; 57, New Crane Street; 1, Grosvenor Court, New Crane Street; 10, Whitehorse Yard, Foregate Street; 1, Black Friars; 4, St. Martin's Ash, Nicholas Street.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Following a preliminary survey of houses in the City, a report was submitted to the Housing Committee of the Council for consideration of the areas to be dealt with by future slum clearance inspection work, &c., in connection with the first Areas, some of those, which had been previously considered before 1939, commenced by the year end.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

This Act came into force on the 1st September, 1954. The following table gives details of applications and granting of Certificates of Disrepair from 1st April, 1955, to 31st March, 1956.

Number of Applications for Certificates	Number granted	Number refused	Number of Applications for revocation of Certificates	Number granted	Number refused
6	6	—	5	5	—
TOTAL since 1st September, 1954.					
43	41	2	6	5	1

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

In the City, smoke pollution is caused chiefly by domestic chimneys and the Railways, there being few large industrial undertakings having coal-fired boiler plants.

Twenty-three observations have been made on factory chimneys and complaints investigated of excessive smoke from two Laundries and a Brewery. Appropriate informal action was taken in these cases and observations on these and other chimneys continued throughout the year.

Fourteen complaints were received from areas in the vicinity of the Leadworks, regarding smells of a burning rubber type and sulphurous fumes.

Reports of complaints received have been submitted monthly and considered by the Public Health Committee and City Council. Interviews with the Works Manager have been held and on behalf of the owners he assured the Council that, in collaboration with the Alkali, etc., Works Inspector, they will apply the best practical means to abate the nuisances. No complaints were received from late September, 1955, to the year end.

Recording apparatus, etc., have been installed by the Leadworks Company on a site in the path of the prevailing winds in an effort to assess the extent of the pollution.

CANAL BOATS.

As in previous years the number of boats using the canal has continued to fall.

Nine canal boats were examined during 1955 and none required the service of complaint notes.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

There is only one privately-owned Common Lodging House (males only) licensed by the City Council.

Ten surprise and routine inspections have been made and several sanitary improvements have been carried out on request and under supervision.

RODENT CONTROL.

Under the scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, a consolidated grant of 50 per cent. of the approved net expenditure, incurred during the financial year 1955-56 is made to Local Authorities. Certain conditions relating to organisation, employment methods, staffing and the carrying out of effective procedure have to be complied with to the satisfaction of the Ministry.

Corporation sewers, surface properties and private houses are treated free of cost. Grant aid is not available in respect of expenditure incurred by the treatment of commercial or industrial premises, the costs being fully re-imbursed by the occupiers so that no charge falls on public funds.

Rodent control in Corporation sewers has been intensified. Two "maintenance" and one "test bait" treatments being carried out during the year.

The results of these treatments are shown in the following tables :

Sewer Maintenance Treatment No. 2/54/55.

21st February to 23rd March, 1955..

Man holes treated	Prebait takes (1)				Prebait takes (2)				Poison takes				Estimat- eted kill.
	C.	G.	S.	N.	C.	G.	S.	N.	C.	G.	S.	N.	
364	124	62	91	87	120	77	74	93	—	44	171	149	505

Bait base :— Bread mash plus Poison—Arsenic.

C—Complete take. G—Good. S—Small. N—No take.

Sewer Test Baiting.

July, 1955.

No. of Manholes Tested	Result		
	C.	Partial	No Take
159	5	11	143

Test baiting with damp sausage rusk was applied in the areas of the City having modern piped sewers, as from practical experience the old sewers of the City are known to be rat infested.

Sewer Maintenance Treatment No. 1/55/56.
22nd August to 19th September, 1955.

Manholes Treated	Prebait Takes (1)				Prebait Takes (2)				Poison Takes				Rats Destroyed
	C.	G.	S.	N.	C.	G.	S.	N.	C.	G.	S.	N.	
380	136	59	68	117	107	79	73	121	—	49	168	163	787

Bait base:— Sausage rusk plus Poison—Zinc Phosphide.

There is little doubt that effective treatment of the sewers reduces the complaints from surface properties. In built-up areas such infestations are eventually traced to defective drains and the complaints remedied following repairs.

The sewers and Corporation refuse tips remain the major source of infestation in the City. The tip, sewage works and land adjoining are kept under routine observation and received 14 treatments during the year.

The rodent staff (1 Foreman and 2 Operators) are engaged for a total of approximately three months annually in the treatment of sewers, sewage work and refuse tips alone.

In addition to the 3,310 visits paid to manholes by the Rodent Staff, 4,476 visits were also made by this Staff and Sanitary Inspectors to surface properties during the financial year ended 31st March, 1956.

Estimated total of vermin destroyed: Rats—5,874; Mice—4,506.

The result of searches, complaints and the services to premises in the City is shown in the following table:—

TYPE OF PROPERTY	Local Authority	NON-AGRICULTURAL		All Other (including Business Premises)	Total	AGRI-CULT-URAL
		Dwelling Houses	All Other (including Business Premises)			
I.—Total number of Properties in Local Authority's District		110	16731	2552	19393	11
II.—Number of properties inspected as a result of :—						
(a) Notification	35	268	100	403	—	
(b) Survey under the Act	34	348	248	630	11	
(c) Otherwise	—	—	8	13	21	—
III.—Total Inspections carried out (including re-inspections)	471	3222	772	4465	11	
IV.—Number of properties inspected (in Section II) found to be infested by :—						
(a) Rats—Major	22	7	12	41	—	
Rats—Minor	17	268	36	321	—	
(b) Mice—Major	16	62	23	101	—	
Mice—Minor	6	62	35	103	—	
V.—Properties in Section IV treated by Local Authority ...	43	370	89	502	—	
VI.—Total Treatments (including re-treatments) ...	59	399	103	561	—	
VII.—Notices served under Section 4 of the Act ...	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
VIII.—Cases of Default	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
IX.—Legal Proceedings	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
X.—“Block” Control Schemes carried out ...	—	28	22	50	—	

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

The above-mentioned Act came into operation on 1st November, 1951, and repealed the Rag Flock Acts of 1911 and 1928. Its purpose is to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles or other articles which are stuffed or lined.

The Act requires the licensing of premises where filling materials are used for upholstering, stuffing or lining of bedding, toys or baby carriages but, unfortunately, excludes premises where these articles are remade or reconditioned.

Eight visits were made to premises within the City but only one came within the purpose of the Act and received a licence.

One sample of Loose Washed Flock (50% wool) was submitted to the Prescribed Analyst for examination and was certified to be in accordance with the standard of cleanliness laid down in the Act.

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following are premises from which milk is sold within the City :—

Premises registered as Dairies	6
Purveyors and Shopkeepers retailing bottled milk only	31
Purveyors with premises outside, retailing in City ...	15
TOTAL	52

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following licences were issued for the sale of designated milk within the City during the year ended 31st December, 1955 :—

(a) Pasteuriser's Licence	1
(b) Dealer's Licences :—	
(i) T.T. Milk	30
(ii) Pasteurised Milk	48
(iii) Sterilized Milk	8
(c) Supplementary Licences :—	
T.T. Milk	4

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (SPECIFIED AREAS) ORDER, 1955.

Chester was included in a specified area during the year.

Milk sold by retail on and after 21st March, 1955, must only be specially designated milk, i.e., pasteurised, sterilized or tuberculin tested.

The sale of undesignated milk is prohibited.

FOOD HYGIENE.

(FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, SECTION 13 AND BYELAWS UNDER SECTION 15).

The Chief and Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspectors have continued to give lectures and demonstrations on the principles of hygiene and the dangers involved in the neglect of personal and kitchen hygiene to staffs of food premises and numerous organisations.

The recording and detailed inspection of food premises was continued during the year, but progress was impeded by shortage of staff.

Detailed inspections have been made and on initial inspection the premises were classified according to (a) suitability of premises (b) type and condition of equipment (c) methods employed and (d) general standards of hygiene.

Initial inspections for this purpose numbered 115 and re-inspections 171.

Where necessary, the attention of proprietors and management was called by interview and letter to defects, &c., requesting co-operation in order to advance the grading classification of these premises.

Such co-operation has been willingly given, resulting in a marked improvement in the standard without need for statutory action.

The work carried out included :—

- (i) Repairs to walls, ceilings, floors, doors and windows, etc.
- (ii) Painting of walls, ceilings and woodwork.
- (iii) Provision of adequate ventilation and lighting.
- (iv) Removal of refuse, etc., and regular cleaning of premises, etc.
- (v) Personal cleanliness, overalls, etc.
- (vi) Provision of wash basins, sinks, and hot and cold water supply, soap and clean towels, etc.
- (vii) Food storage accommodation and refrigerators.
- (viii) Provision of sanitary accommodation.

The following table gives the state of classification of food premises inspected and re-inspected to the end of 1955, since commencement of the scheme :—

	Classification on First Inspection	Classification of same premises at end of 1955
Excellent	38	58
Good	193	217
Fair	158	164
Poor	108	62
Bad	17	13
Totals	514	514

NOTE.—Excellent means first class in all respects, Good means minor defects only, Fair means few small defects in structure, equipment or methods, Poor means below standard generally and Bad means very unsatisfactory.

The premises classified "bad" were being satisfactorily dealt with early in 1956. Some were found to have "closed" on re-inspection and others improved.

The following is a list of the food premises in the City.

TYPE	NUMBER	TYPE	NUMBER
Bakehouses	14	Kiosks	5
Brewery	1	Licensed Victuallers	107
Butchers' Shops	70	Wholesale Meat Depots ...	2
Cake Shops	22	Mineral Water	
Cheese Factors	2	Manufacturers	2
Dairies	7	Mobile Canteen	1
Egg Packing Station	1	Restaurants and Cafes ...	69
Fishmongers	18	School Kitchens	17
Fried Fish & Chip Premises	30	School Meals Centres	11
General Stores	10	Slaughterhouses	2
Greengrocers	54	Sweet Manufacturers	2
Grocers and Provisions ...	125	Sweet Shops	41
Hotels	27	Tripe Shops	2
Ice Cream Manufacturers	6	Wholesale Grocers	6
Ice Cream Wholesale		Works & Stores Canteens	15
Depots	1		

FOOD POISONING—INVESTIGATIONS.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 42 investigations and re-visits to suspected cases notified to the Medical Officer of Health, and collected 51 specimens for bacteriological examination in connection with same.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 (Section 14).

The following premises are registered in the City for :—

		NO. OF PREMISES	NO. OF INSPECTIONS
(a) The sale, manufacture for sale, or storage of ice cream intended for sale		191	144
(b) the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale	31		72

ICE CREAM.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953, provides that ice-cream must contain at least 5 per cent. fat, 10 per cent. sugar and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. milk solids other than fat. The standard applies to any products (including those supplied in catering establishments) which are sold as "ice cream" or "ices", but does not apply to water ices sold as such or to "ice lollies".

The fat content of the 12 samples analysed is shown in the following table :—

FAT CONTENT PER CENT.

Standard 5 per cent.	5 and under 6	6 and under 7	7 and under 8	8 and under 9	9 and under 10	10 and under 11	11 and under 12	12 and over
Number of Samples	—	1	1	1	1	2	—	6

The samples also satisfied the tests for sugar content, and milk solids other than fat.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES.

During the year, 49 samples of ice cream were bacteriologically examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.

The following table sets out the results :—

	NUMBER OF SAMPLES
Grade 1—Satisfactory	42
Grade 2—Satisfactory	6
Grade 3—Unsatisfactory	1
TOTAL	49

Following up samples taken at periods throughout the year at the premises from which the Grade 3 sample was obtained proved to be Satisfactory, Grade 1.

There were two samples containing Faecal B. Coli (concerning two premises). In one case, the premises, utensils and methods were examined and following up samples were reported to be free from Faecal B. Coli. The other premises ceased to manufacture ice cream.

All the premises, &c. on which ice cream was manufactured, stored or sold were regularly inspected and the condition of utensils, methods, etc. found to comply with the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

LICENSED PREMISES.

118 visits were made to licensed premises and a comprehensive report submitted to the Licensing Justices.

Special attention has been directed to hygiene and the provision of sanitary accommodation. Particular attention has also been paid to the condition of beer cellars, especially in regard to the type and condition of piping from barrel to pump, cleanliness, structural condition, ventilation and drainage of floor and, where necessary, repairs and alterations have been carried out on request.

No complaints were received regarding unclean drinking utensils, &c. but this gives no room for complacency.

The generally high standard of hygiene in licensed premises within the City was maintained.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT. 1938.

The following tables show (1) the samples submitted to the Public Analyst (H. Lowe, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.) during the year, and (2) the administrative action taken in respect of samples certified to be not genuine.

ARTICLE	Number Examined			No Adulterated, &c.		
	Formal	In-formal	Total	Formal	In-formal	Total
Milk	26	52	78	—	—	—
Ice Cream	—	12	12	—	—	—
Beer	—	6	6	—	—	—
Sweets	—	5	5	—	—	—
Ice Lollies	—	4	4	—	—	—
Pork Sausages	—	3	3	—	—	—
Margarine	—	2	2	—	—	—
Butter	—	2	2	—	—	—
Lard	—	2	2	—	—	—
Cooking Fat	—	2	2	—	—	—
Whisky	—	2	2	—	—	—
Tea	—	1	1	—	—	—
Marmalade	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sauce	—	1	1	—	—	—
Fruit Chutney	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ham and Cheese Spread	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chicken Paste	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ginger Cordial	—	1	1	—	—	—
Stuffing	—	1	1	—	—	—
Rickory	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pickled Cabbage	—	1	1	—	—	—
Synthetic Cream	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pickling Sauce	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chewing Gum	—	1	1	—	—	—
Tomatoes	—	1	1	—	—	—
Grapefruit	—	1	1	—	—	—
Oranges	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cake Mixture	—	1	1	—	—	—
Blackcurrant Jam	—	1	1	—	—	—
Fish Paste	—	1	1	—	—	—
Tomato Ketchup	—	1	1	—	—	—
Gravy Browning	—	1	1	—	—	—
White Pepper	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mustard	—	1	1	—	—	—
Orange Drink	—	1	1	—	—	—
Golden Syrup	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemon Cheese	—	1	1	—	—	—
Meat Paste	—	1	1	—	—	—
Self-Raising Flour	—	1	1	—	—	—
Plain Flour	—	1	1	—	—	—
Beef Steak Pie	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ground Rice	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cake Mixture	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mixed Dried Fruit	—	1	1	—	—	—
Instant Pudding	—	1	1	—	—	—
Gelatine	—	1	1	—	—	—
Beef Sausages	—	1	1	—	—	—
Baking Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemon Juice	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mincemeat	—	1	1	—	—	—
Plum Jam	—	1	1	—	—	—
Christmas Pudding	—	1	1	—	—	—
Blancmange Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Jelly	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cocoa	—	1	1	—	—	—
Table Salt	—	1	1	—	—	—
Maggi Cornflour Soup	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee	—	1	1	—	—	—
White Bread	—	1	1	—	—	—
Wholemeal Bread	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sunny Spread	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cheese and Tomato Spread	—	1	1	—	—	—
Liver Salt	—	1	1	—	—	—
Flavouring Essence	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cut Peel	—	1	1	—	—	—
Bisto	—	1	1	—	—	—
Breadcrumbs	—	1	1	—	—	—
Milk Loaf	—	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	28	147	175	—	1	1

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

TABLE II.
Table showing administrative action taken in regard to samples
certified to be not genuine.

SAMPLE NO.	ARTICLE	RESULT OF ANALYSES	REMARKS	ACTION TAKEN
Informal 16	Milk	37 per cent. deficient in fat. Fat 1.9 per cent. Solids not fat 8.7 per cent.	Farm bottled T.T. milk. Following up sample, Formal (No. 17), obtained next day, contained fat 3.2 per cent., solids not fat 8.7 per cent. Certified Genuine.	Warning letter to producer.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.
LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Case 1. (Section 10).

It was necessary to institute proceedings in respect of the use of insanitary premises (a disused pig-sty) for the preparation of sausage casings for human food.

The defendant was fined a total of £25.

The premises were closed following cleansing of the site.

Case 2. (Section 9).

The sale of two unsound meat pies from an ice-cream van resulted in the vendor being fined £10 on the institution of legal proceedings.

MILK.

Chemical Analysis.

Total Samples analysed	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Number certified "not genuine"	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Samples below standard for fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Samples below standard for solids not fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Average quality (Standards—Fat 3%, Solids not fat 8.5%) :—							
Fat	...	...	...	...	...	3.79%	
Solids not fat	...	...	...	...	...	8.72%	

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Result of the various tests applied to 150 samples of milk submitted for examination are shown in the following table :—

DESIGNATION	NO. OF SAMPLES	TEST APPLIED	NUMBER	
			PASSED	FAILED
Pasteurised	47	Phosphatase	47	—
		Methylene Blue	46	1
Certified T.T.	75	Methylene Blue	66	9
		Coliform	75	—
T.T. Pasteurised	30	Phosphatase	29	1
		Methylene Blue	30	—
Sterilized	3	Turbidity	3	—

NOTES :—

- (a) The "Phosphatase Test" denotes efficient pasteurisation.
- (b) The "Methylene Blue Test" assesses keeping qualities.
- (c) Presence of coliform bacillus indicates faecal contamination.

The attention of the Producer and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was called to the unsatisfactory samples. Subsequent samples passed the appropriate tests.

BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

(a) For Tuberculosis.

24 samples of T.T. Milk were sent to the Medical Research Laboratory, Birkenhead, for examination for the presence of tuberculosis of bovine origin.

All were certified to be negative.

(b) For Brucella Abortus.

No. Examined	Result			
	Ring Test		G.P.I.	
	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive
(T.T. Milk) ²²	16	6	4	2

Guinea pig inoculation tests were made in respect of the six samples found on first test to be Ring Test +. Later, four were reported to be free from the brucella, the ring test reaction being apparently caused by preventive inoculation of the cattle against the disease.

Both the samples affected with the brucella came into the City from farms outside the boundary.

The Medical Officer of Health notified the Authorities concerned.

In one instance, subsequent negative samples from the herd cleared up the case.

In the other instance, it was necessary for the Medical Officer of Health to serve Notices under Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations prohibiting the sale within the City of milk from this farm, unless pasteurised or heat treated.

Subsequently the notice was withdrawn when it was assured by tests that the herd was free from infection.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

This Act, which came into operation on 1st April, 1951, regulates premises on, and conditions under which, pets are housed and sold.

Five premises were licensed under the Act and 23 re-inspections made during the year. All the premises complied with the terms of their licences.

Legislation is necessary to control more effectively the sale of unfit meat in Pet and other such Shops, to ensure that it cannot be used for human food.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933/1954.

Twenty-six renewal licences and one new licence were issued to Slaughtermen during the year.

Slaughtering in the City has been carried out at the Public Abattoir and one private Slaughterhouse.

Animals slaughtered during 1955:—

Cattle	...	...	1893
Calves	...	...	862
Sheep	...	...	9857
Pigs	...	...	3098
			TOTAL
			14710

Meat Marking is carried out at the Abattoir where a Meat Inspector is on duty whilst slaughtering is in progress.

Ante-mortem inspections are made of all animals and notes taken of any abnormalities which might assist in the subsequent post-mortem examinations which are carried out on every animal slaughtered.

The weight of food condemned during the year amounted to:—

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat and offals	...	10	13	0	7
Other foods	...	8	16	0	24
		TOTAL	19	10	0 3

All condemned meat is 'dyed green' before removal to an approved processing plant to ensure that it cannot be used for human consumption.

The following tables show (1) percentage of animals affected with disease and (2) details of all food condemned.

TABLE I.
CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN
WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1791	102	862	9857	3098
Number inspected	1791	102	862	9857	3098
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	6	3	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	599	20	10	1333	464
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	33.22	19.61	1.84	14.47	15.02
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	—	3	0	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	193	19	8	0	37
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	10.74	18.63	0.34	0.00	4.98
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	33	1	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	33	1	—	—	—
Generalised & totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

Thirty-four cases were discovered during the year, whilst the following table shows the number of animals affected for a period of six years.

YEAR	NUMBER OF CASES			
1950	5
1951	10
1952	14
1953	27
1954	19
1955	34
			TOTAL	109

All the affected carcases were placed into deep freeze in accordance with Memo 3/Meat.

CHESTER CORPORATION ACT, 1929.

In October, 1954, it was necessary to seize, under the above Act (Section 81) a black and white sow brought into the Cattle Market and intended for sale for human food. The sow was in poor condition, infested with lice and had large swellings in the neck. On post-mortem the carcase revealed multiple abscesses and other conditions which rendered it unfit for food.

Legal proceedings were instituted in January, 1955, when the owner of the animal was fined £20, plus costs £5 12s. 6d., under the Transit of Animals Order, 1951, for permitting a pig to be carried in a road vehicle causing unnecessary suffering. Summons on other charges were dismissed.

TABLE II.
UNSOND FOOD.

Article	No.	Reason for Condemnation
BEEF.		
Whole carcases and offal ...	3	Generalised tuberculosis
Quarters	13	Localised tuberculosis
	1	Extensive contusion
VEAL.		
Whole carcases and offal ...	3	Febrility
Whole carcases and offal ...	3	Tuberculosis
Whole carcases and offal ...	1	Oedema
Whole carcases and offal ...	1	Immaturity
Whole carcases and offal ...	1	Umbilical pyaemia
PORK.		
Whole carcases and offal ...	3	Generalised tuberculosis
Whole carcases and offal ...	1	Pyaemia
Whole carcases and offal ...	1	Febrility

UNSOUND FOOD—continued.

Article		Reason for Condemnation
MUTTON.		
Whole carcases and offal ...	2	Oedema
Whole carcases and offal ...	1	Moribund due to injuries
VISCERA (lbs.)	18944	Localised tuberculosis, parasitic and other conditions
MISCELLANEOUS.	Lbs.	
6,295 tins of fish, meat, soup, vegetables, etc. ...	10113	Pierced, blown, etc.
623 tins of condensed and evaporated milk	493	Pierced, blown, etc.
Tinned Ham	2738	Decomposed, etc.
Imported Meat	1627	Decomposed, etc.
Cooked Meat	230	Decomposed, etc.
Bacon	161	Decomposed, etc.
Sausage Meat & Sausages	343	Decomposed, etc.
Pork Pies	630	Decomposed, etc.
Savoury Ducks	19	Decomposed, etc.
Roast Pork	5	Decomposed, etc.
Black Puddings	4	Decomposed, etc.
Geese	160	Decomposed, etc.
Turkeys	487	Decomposed, etc.
Chickens	71	Decomposed, etc.
Fowl, Mixed	114	Decomposed, etc.
Imported Hares	218	Decomposed, etc.
Frozen Eggs (Imported) ...	194	Decomposed, etc.
Tripe	10	Decomposed, etc.
Cheese	116	Decomposed, etc.
Cake Filling	112	Decomposed, etc.
Cake	164	Mould
Cheese	176	Mould
Marzipan	6	Soiled in transit
Various Cakes, Sweets and Groceries	450	Damaged by fire
Flour	18	Mites
FRUIT & VEGETABLES.		
Potatoes	40	Decomposed
Italian Peaches	192	Decomposed
Dried Peas	3	Weevil
FISH.		
Plaice	269	Decomposed
Cod	183	Decomposed
Halibut	47	Decomposed
Sole	14	Decomposed
Dabs	44	Decomposed
Herrings	10	Decomposed
Smoked Fillets	66	Decomposed
Crabs	15	Decomposed
Prawns	8	Decomposed
Fish Cakes	34	Decomposed

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health made by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1955.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	75	16	6	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	257	147	19	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	332	163	25	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found			No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	8	8	—	1
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	—	1
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :				
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	13	13	—	5

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK
(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel—Making, etc....	9	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture & Upholstery	1	—	—	—	—	—

